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**WEST BERKS
UNITED DISTRICTS**



INTERIM REPORT

**for the year ending
31st December, 1944**

by

G. CLARK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

L. P. de COSTOBADIE, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officers of Health.



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TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE WEST BERKS
UNITED DISTRICTS.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

We beg to submit our annual report for the year 1944.

As in previous years this report is an interim one and is confined to the essential and urgent matters as recommended in the Ministry of Health Circular 10/44 of the 15th February, 1944. The Ministry of Health in their Circular 49/45 of March, 1945 have now however removed certain war-time restrictions and we have therefore been able to re-insert population figures and mention any important developments such as extensions of water supply or sewage works.

Full records are being preserved so that it will be possible to issue a fuller report if required.

To help them in planning for future Rural Water schemes the Ministry has asked, among other things, for information as to the percentage of premises and population on Main supplies and this has been given for each area as accurately as possible.

1944 has been, generally speaking, a healthy year. Comparing the figures for infectious disease with last year's they have not varied greatly, with the exception that there was no epidemic of measles and a 20 per cent increase in tuberculosis.

There were again very few cases of notifiable disease amongst the troops stationed in the area.

Your obedient Servants,

G. CLARK,

L. P. de COSTOBADIE,

Medical Officers of Health.

September, 1945.

WEST BERKS UNITED SANITARY DISTRICTS
JOINT COMMITTEE.

List of Members, 1945—46.

Boroughs.

- ABINGDON. V. J. Leach, Esq., Rosemary, Northcourt, Abingdon.
(Vice-Chairman).
- NEWBURY. Alderman C. W. Burns, Barrie, 10 Buckingham Rd.
Newbury.
Major A. V. Bradshaw, M.C., The Nook, 140
Newtown Road, Newbury.
- WALLINGFORD. H. Lovelock, Esq., Oak House, Wallingford.

Urban District.

- WANTAGE. A. T. Evans, Esq., The Manor Farm, Charlton,
Nr. Wantage.

Rural Districts.

- ABINGDON. E. J. Jones, Esq., The Cottage, Gozzards Ford,
Nr. Abingdon. (Chairman).
Lt.-Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House,
Shippon, Nr. Abingdon.
- BRADFELD E. B. Wilbraham, Esq., Mapletons, Bradfield.
Dr. W. B. Secretan, Brackenhurst, Bucklebury
Common, Reading.
Major A. C. Wilkinson, Bath House, Yattenden
Court, Yattenden.
- FARINGDON. The Rev. J. W. Cole, Pusey Rectory, Faringdon.
T. Dewe, Esq., Coltons, Longworth, Nr. Abingdon.
- HUNGERFORD. T. Sandell, Esq., Stubwood Farm, Hungerford.
- NEWBURY. A. S. B. Tull, Esq., J.P., Round Oak, Greenham,
Newbury.
F. J. Coxhead, Esq., Station Road, Thatcham,
Nr. Newbury.
- WALLINGFORD. F. I. Ryman, Esq., J.P., New Road, East Hagbourne,
Didcot.
- WANTAGE. Lt.-Col. H. A. Engledue, Edlins, Aston Tirrold,
Didcot
The Rev. C. W. W. Bourne, The Vicarage, Grove,
Wantage.

Clerk to the Joint Committee.

G. V. Spooner, Esq., Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

NORTHERN AREA.

Medical Officer of Health :
G. CLARK, Public Health Office, 59, Stert Street, Abingdon
Telephone : Abingdon 598.

Districts.	Sanitary Inspectors.
Abingdon Urban ...	Gifford Saffin, Council Offices, The Abbey House, Abingdon. (Telephone 320).
Abingdon Rural ...	T. E. Upton, 60, Bath Street, Abingdon. (Telephone 361).
Faringdon Rural ...	L. E. Snelling, London St. Faringdon. (Telephone 3121).
Wallingford Urban ...	C. J. Flooks, Town Hall, Wallingford. (Telephone 2155).
Wallingford Rural ...	C. J. Gayfer, 1, Church Lane, Wallingford. (Telephone 3251).
Wantage Urban ...	H. Vivian James, Town Hall, Wantage. (Telephone 240).
Wantage Rural ...	E. H. Rosser, Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage. (Telephone 211 & 212).

SOUTHERN AREA.

Medical Officer of Health :
L. P. de COSTOBADIE, Public Health Office, Greenham House, Newbury.
Telephone : Newbury 1144.

Districts.	Sanitary Inspectors.
Bradfield Rural ...	T. Harold Windle, Town Hall Chambers, Blagrove Street, Reading. (Telephone 2293).
Hungerford Rural ...	F. H. Obrey, 128 High St. Hungerford. (Telephone 29).
Newbury Urban ...	J. Hague, Town Hall, Newbury. (Telephone 109).
Newbury Rural ...	Edwin G. Hampshire, Phoenix House, Bartholomew Street, Newbury. (Telephone 174).

WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS.

THE WEST BERKS UNITED DISTRICTS consist of the Boroughs of Abingdon, Newbury and Wallingford; the Urban District of Wantage; and the Rural Districts of Abingdon, Bradfield, Faringdon, Hungerford, Newbury, Wallingford and Wantage.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The following table shows the area of each district, with the estimated population at the middle of 1944.

District.		Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water.)	Estimated Population	Persons per Acre
Abingdon Boro.	...	1,713	8,714	5·0
Newbury „	..	2,612	18,060	7·0
Wallingford „	...	760	3,398	4·4
Wantage Urban	...	2,797	4,435	1·5
Abingdon Rural	...	41,225	19,860	0·4
Bradfield „	...	53,008	19,300	0·3
Faringdon „	...	55,726	10,620	0·2
Hungerford „	...	44,817	9,330	0·2
Newbury „	...	41,660	14,030	0·3
Wallingford „	...	21,772	14,110	0·6
Wantage „	...	74,179	11,570	0·1
		340,269	133,427	0·39

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The following table gives the Birth and Death rate per 1,000 population and the Infant Mortality and Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births.

District.	Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated population at the middle of 1944	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population at the middle of 1944	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	Illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births
Abingdon Boro. ...	18·1	12·7	37·3	69·6
Newbury „ ...	19·4	13·0	39·6	104·5
Wallingford „ ...	19·4	15·3	60·1	45·5
Wantage Urban ...	19·1	17·8	62·5	105·9
Abingdon Rural ...	22·4	8·6	22·2	80·9
Bradfield „ ...	16·4	10·1	31·5	116·7
Faringdon „ ...	22·2	12·2	33·9	97·5
Hungerford „ ...	20·4	13·0	31·2	105·8
Newbury „ ..	19·2	10·4	58·8	102·9
Wallingford „ ...	21·5	8·2	13·3	108·5
Wantage „ ...	20·6	13·1	30·4	117·6
	25·4	11·5	25·2	76·7
England & Wales	17·6	11·6	46	72

In addition to the births accounted for above there were 56 still-births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Four deaths were registered as having resulted from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases totalled 7. Two were due to Cerebro-Spinal Fever, One to Diphtheria and Four to Whooping Cough.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in each district during 1944.

Disease.	District.											
	Abingdon Boro.	Newbury Boro.	Wallingford Boro.	Wantage Urban.	Abingdon Rural.	Bradfield Rural.	Faringdon Rural	Hungerford Rural.	Newbury Rural.	Wallingford Rural.	Wantage Rural.	Total: West Berks United Districts.
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	25	1	1	1	32
Scarlet Fever	50	51	9	11	89	55	3	8	12	48	10	346
Erysipelas	7	5	2	...	8	3	1	3	1	3	3	36
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	4	...	...	1	4	4	1	1	...	...	16
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	2	1	...	3	2	1	1	1	2	...	16
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	...	...	1	7	1	1	1	1	...	14
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	...	...	3	3	13
Acute Pneumonia	2	5	4	...	9	26	8	11	2	4	4	75
Measles	6	12	3	1	16	52	21	149	44	151	38	493
Whooping Cough	26	67	18	9	89	80	42	12	75	82	35	535
Respiratory Tuberculosis	15	26	4	2	26	23	10	6	12	18	14	156
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	4	2	1	15	3	2	3	6	6	4	50

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria.

	1942		1943		1944	
	Under 5	5 to 15	Under 5	5 to 15	Under 5	5 to 15
Abingdon Boro	281	121	183	19	197	60
Newbury	294	435	282	136	159	220
Wallingford	93	6	90	7	53	3
Wantage Urban	61	69	81	72	41	—
Abingdon Rural	252	255	151	99	189	16
Bradfield	172	96	115	87	100	8
Faringdon	87	104	176	27	65	2
Hungerford	102	129	86	—	196	7
Newbury	180	161	90	13	174	5
Wallingford	328	215	178	29	96	2
Wantage	71	132	103	20	119	4
Percentage Immunised at end of year	61	68.5	65.5	83.2	68.2	87.7

The percentages for 1944 have been calculated after making allowances for the removal of pre-school children to the school group and the fact that many of those immunised in the school group have now passed out of the 5—15 age group.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1939	77	33	110
1940	114	50	164
1941	85	52	137
1942	131	61	192
1943	127	41	168
1944	166	50	216

SCABIES.

There has not been a great number of cases of Scabies brought to official notice as most are treated by Medical Practitioners.

The arrangements for the treatment of In-patients are the same as for 1943.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Berks County Council report that Venereal Disease has shewn some increase on previous years.

The following table gives times and places for the treatment of Venereal Disease :—

The Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading.

Male Wednesday, 2 p.m. and Saturday, 4.30 p.m.

Female Wednesday, 4.30 p.m. and Saturday, 2 p.m.

The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Male Wednesday, 6 p.m. and Saturday, 3 p.m.

Female Monday, 6 p.m. and Wednesday, 3 p.m.

The Isolation Hospital, Swindon.

Male Wednesday, 7 to 8.30 p.m. and Friday, 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Female Monday 5 to 6.30 p.m. and Friday, 2 to 3.30 p.m.

ABINGDON BOROUGH.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

All premises have a piped supply either from the Oxford public mains or from those of the Abingdon Council and both supplies are chlorinated. Tests of this treated water were satisfactory. Approximately twenty dwelling houses have stand pipes.

SEWAGE :

There is broad irrigation treatment for all houses with the exception of 25 which have cesspools.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	50	45	—
Erysipelas	7	4	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	2 (all forms)
Measles	6	1	—
Whooping Cough	26	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

There were no Military cases.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was the same as for last year and was again of mild type.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10		15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	1	2	...	..	...	2	...	..
25	—	35	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	...
35	—	45	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	—	55	4	1	...	1	1	1	...	...
55	—	65	1	...	.	...	...		...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			10	5	1	3	1	6	0	0

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

Of the 24 Parishes 18 are supplied from the Oxford Company and approximately 70% of the population are on the mains. There are no stand pipes.

Four Parishes are supplied by Abingdon Rural District mains and here there are 60 stand pipes (one third of the premises).

The remaining 2 Parishes have wells.

All mains water is chlorinated and samples of such treated water were reported as Class I after bacteriological examination.

The water from the Sutton Courtenay bore-hole is known to be plumbo-solvent, and all services are carried out in galvanized iron piping. No evidence of lead poisoning was reported during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Scarlet Fever	89	76	—
Erysipelas	8	5	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	4	1
Acute Pneumonia	9	5	4(all forms)
Measles	16	1	—
Whooping Cough	89	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—

Military Cases : Dysentery 1 : Pneumonia 4 : Whooping Cough 1.
The case of Puerperal Fever made a complete recovery.
The incidence of Tuberculosis was approximately the same as for last year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...
15	—	20	2	...	...	3	2	1	...	...
20	—	25	1	3	...	.	...	2	...	...
25		35	5	3	...	2	4	...	...	...
35	—	45	1	3	1	...	1	2	...	...
45	—	55	1	...	...	..	2	...	...	...
55	—	65	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
65 and upwards			1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals			13	13	6	9	10	6	1	0

BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY :

No shortage of water occurred during the year.

Of the 3,860 working class houses in the District approximately 2,080 are connected with water mains and of these approximately 60 have only stand pipes from the main supply. The remainder of working class houses are served by dug wells or driven tubes.

SEWERAGE :

In August 1944 extensions to the works at Aldermaston were completed by the Army Authorities at a cost of approximately £3,000. This work was necessary owing to the additional flow from Aldermaston Court, occupied by the Army Authorities.

MILK :

Thirteen samples of Milk retailed within the District were examined for the presence or absence of turbercle bacilli. The result was negative in 12 cases and positive in one case. This was the first case of milk infected with the tubercule bacillus for many years. Appropriate action was taken and the source of the infection removed.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	55	36	—
Erysipelas	3	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	26	—	8(all forms)
Measles	52	—	—
Whooping Cough	80	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	5	—

Military Cases : 1 Erysipelas and 1 Dysentery.

The Scarlet Fever was of the usual mild type.

All the cases of Puerperal Pyrexia recovered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
7	2	5	7	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	..
25	—	35	1	7	1	...	1	3	...	...
35	—	45	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
45	—	55	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
65 and upwards			...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			7	16	1	2	2	3	1	1

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

There was no serious shortage during the year. Public supplies are chlorinated and bacteriological examinations were satisfactory.

Of 2,940 premises in the district 758 (26%) have a piped supply, and of these approximately 23% have stand pipes.

The remainder of the premises are supplied from private wells, the majority of which are shallow and samples have been far from satisfactory, but little can be done to remedy this state of affairs until the comprehensive water scheme, now in preparation, is put into operation.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	1	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	8	2	—
Measles	21	—	—
Whooping Cough	42	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—

Military Cases: Cerebro-Spinal Fever 1: Dysentery 1: Pneumonia 1. There were exceptionally few cases of Scarlet Fever this year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	0	1	1	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	1	.	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	—	35	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	—	45	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	—	55	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
65 and upwards			1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			6	4	1	1	3	1	2	1

HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY :

The District is exceptionally well supplied with mains water. All premises in the Hungerford area have a piped supply. In the case of the Lambourn Valley Scheme 94% of dwellings are supplied, but approximately 120 have stand pipes. Inkpen and Kintbury are supplied by the Newbury Water Company, 85% of houses being connected, though 30 to 40 with stand pipes only.

The above supplies are chlorinated and examinations proved satisfactory. There is however a serious need for mains water to some of the farms.

It is to be noted that the large number of stand pipes in this district was necessitated by the absence of public sewerage systems.

SEWERAGE :

Sewerage schemes for the Parishes of Lambourn and Kintbury have been sent to the Ministry of Health and the Berkshire County Council for their approval, and the Council have given instructions for a similar scheme to be prepared for the Parishes of East Garston, West Shefford and East Shefford.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	25	25	1
Scarlet Fever	8	6	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	11	—	5 (all forms)
Measles	149	—	—
Whooping Cough	12	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

DIPHThERIA :

There was an epidemic of diphtheria in Lambourn during November and December. Extensive investigations were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, and the staff of the Oxford Emergency Pathological Laboratory, who gave invaluable assistance.

All the school children were repeatedly swabbed and the source of the outbreak traced to 20 “ Carriers ” in the Senior school. All children were re-immunised.

After two months treatment, including tonsillectomies on the more chronic cases the “ Carriers ” were cleared of infection.

Several of the cases of diphtheria had been Immunised in 1941 but they were all extremely mild. There was one death, in an adult who had never been Immunised.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
25	—	35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	—	45	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	—	55	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			5	1	2	1	3	0	0	0

NEWBURY BOROUGH.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

There was no shortage of water during the year.

There were no new sources of supply or important mains extensions carried out.

All water is Chlorinated and analysis proved satisfactory.

MILK :

There is one creamery situated in the Borough licensed to produce pasteurised milk.

As in previous years a large number of samples of the treated milk have been sent to the National Institute for Dairy Research and results show a high degree of efficiency in the plant. The situation however where bottle washing at dairies is concerned is still far from satisfactory.

The retail dairymen have submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Food in accordance with the request that arrangements shall be set on foot for the heat treatment of milk. The Ministry have not yet issued the Order requiring the scheme to be put in operation.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	51	32	—
Erysipelas	5	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	5	—	10(all forms)
Measles	12	—	—
Whooping Cough	67	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—

Military Cases : 1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Measles.

Puerperal Pyrexia : 4 cases—3 recovered.

There was an increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever, three times as many cases as last year being sent to hospital. Measles cases were greatly reduced.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
2	0	2	2	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
20	—	25	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	—	35	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	—	45	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
45	—	55	3	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
55	—	65	3	4	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals			15	11	0	4	5	2	0	2

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The attendances at the clinics continued to increase.

Expectant mothers who attended	...	...	230
Number of children first attending Child Welfare Clinic :			
Under 1 year	...	...	361
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	163
Visits paid by the Health Visitors :			
To expectant mothers	...	...	21
To children under 1 year	...	...	805
To children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	2,512
Number of persons at the end of the year who were			
registered as receiving children for reward	...		4
Number of children so received at the end of the year			7

Thirteen women were sent by the Ante-natal Clinic to the Royal Berks Hospital and five to the Newbury District Hospital.

Births in the Borough showed an increase of 24% over the previous 2 years.

The average daily attendance at the Victoria Park Nursery for the children of women engaged on war work increased from 55 to 63. The capacity is for 80 children.

Child Welfare Authorities were asked to lay particular emphasis on the care of premature infants (5½lbs. and under), on illegitimate children, and on children with foster parents.

In conjunction with the County, a scheme for the special supervision of illegitimate children by the Health Visitors, and of the mothers by the Welfare Officer was started at the end of the year, and a register is now kept.

This is the second year in which the scheme for Home Helps for Maternity cases has been in operation. With one Helper an average of 20 cases are attended annually. The scheme has given great satisfaction and has worked economically.

NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY :

An acute shortage of water occurred in the Parish of Winterbourne and in the outlying portions of the Parishes of Boxford, Welford and Speen.

The whole of these areas are dependent on shallow wells, the level in which rapidly lowers in periods of drought.

A scheme for a public supply for the whole of these areas has been considered by the Council as a most necessary post-war need under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944.

The failure of the Boring at Brightwalton (in the Wantage Rural District) from which the Parish of Leckhamstead obtains its water supply necessitated the provision of water tanks in the parish to which water had to be drawn daily for several weeks.

With the exception of the foregoing and various isolated premises throughout the district water is obtained from the mains of the Newbury Corporation in 7 parishes and from the Mid Wessex Water Company in 4 parishes. There are further piped supplies in the Parishes of Chieveley and Leckhamstead and part of Welford.

Approximately four fifths of the total population obtain their water from public mains. No public standpipes are provided on the lines of the mains, but approximately 30 private stand pipes within the curtilage of small groups of cottages are provided.

The Newbury Corporation and the Mid Wessex supplies are Chlorinated before entering the mains.

SEWERAGE :

During the year 33 separate premises were connected to the new sewers at Thatcham, making a total of 214 premises connected since the completion of the sewers for the West Area in November 1942.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	12	6	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	2	—	5(all forms)
Measles	44	1	—
Whooping Cough	75	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—

The case of Puerperal Pyrexia was a severe one but recovered.

There was only one Military case—Measles.

The case of Diphtheria occurred in an Unimmunised child.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	0	1	1	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 10	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
10 — 15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15 — 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 — 25	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	..
25 — 35	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 — 55	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
55 — 65	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	7	3	3	0	2	0	0

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Bacteriological examinations of chlorinated water were satisfactory. The supply is not plumbo-solvent.

No form of contamination was discovered during the year. Only two houses in the borough are without a piped supply direct to them.

During the year a fifth borehole was added at the waterworks and was first used in July.

SEWERAGE :

No extensions of the system or alterations were made.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	9	—
Erysipelas	2	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	—	1(all forms)
Measles	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	18	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

Military Cases: Cerebro-Spinal Fever 1.

With the exception of the decline in the incidence of Measles, infectious disease has been much the same as last year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1 — 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 — 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 — 15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15 — 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 — 25	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25 — 35	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
35 — 45	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

Examinations of piped supplies gave satisfactory results. All water supplied by the Local Authority is chlorinated.

80% of the population and 78% of the premises have a piped supply. About 20 houses in Little Wittenham depend upon stand pipes from a private supply.

INFESTATION :

Arrangements have been made with the County Council for the cleansing of infested persons at the Wallingford Emergency Hospital. This includes treatment of scabies and lice.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	48	26	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	2	3(all forms)
Measles	151	—	—
Whooping Cough	82	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

Military Cases : Diphtheria 1 : Scarlet Fever 1 : Pneumonia 1 : Measles 1.

There has been an increase in infectious disease in the district this year the number of Scarlet Fever cases being double those in 1943, but as before they were of a mild type.

Measles did not decline as in other parts of the County. The two Enteric cases completely recovered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1	—	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	—	25	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	..
25	—	35	2	4	1	...	...	1	...	...
35	—	45	2	3	...	...	1	1	...	...
45	—	55	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			7	11	3	3	2	2	0	0

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER :

The public supply was sufficient in quantity to satisfy all demands during the year but private supplies were greatly reduced in the early part of the year. Examinations of the public supply, which is Chlorinated, were all in Class I. A general survey of all private supplies was made during the year. Out of 85 wells 74 were contaminated in varying degrees. Notices requiring the provision of mains supply in respect of the premises supplied by these wells were served, including also those premises where the wells had dried up.

The large majority of houses have a public supply. Of the dwelling houses connected to public mains 88% have a direct supply and 12% are served by stand pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

Very extensive alterations at the Sewage works (mentioned in a previous report) were carried out during the year and the quality of the effluent has materially improved.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11	8	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	1 (all forms)
Measles	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

There were no Military Cases.

There was less infectious disease in the town than for some years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
20	—	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
25	—	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	—	45	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	—	55	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards			1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals			2	0	0	1	3	1	0	0

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

HOUSING :

During the year twelve Agricultural Cottages were completed and occupied.

WATER :

Of the 31 Parishes, 15 have a piped supply and in these 78% of the premises are connected.

Taking the district as a whole only 41% of premises are on mains. There are no public stand pipes. Chlorination of all but one of the Council's water supplies is carried out and 86% of bacteriological tests were in Class I. Eight samples were taken from private wells and all were contaminated.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	10	2	—
Erysipelas	3	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	3	4(all forms)
Measles	38	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

Military Cases: Pneumonia 3: Measles 1.

With the exception of a decline in cases of Measles the incidence of infectious disease has been much the same as in 1943.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	—	10	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
10	—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	—	20	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	..
20	—	25	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25	—	35	4	4	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	—	45	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	—	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	—	65	...	...	..	1	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			10	4	1	3	2	3	0	0

